

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 9-11, 14-19 and 21-24 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of April 7, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner Lewis for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of May 30, 2003. During that interview, Examiner Lewis stated that claim 13 had been allowed in error, as claim 13 had been previously cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-7, 9-18 and 21-23 are said to be allowable. Claim 19 is objected as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-7, 9-11, 12-18, and 21-23 appear to be free of the prior art.

Claim 19 has now been amended to depend from claim 22. Since claim 22 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is also allowable.

The Examiner states that claims 3-7, 9-11, 12-18 and 21-23 are allowable. As noted above, claim 13 was cancelled in favor of claim 23 in the amendment filed January 16, 2003. Since the subject matter of claim 13 was considered to be allowable, claim 13 has now been rewritten as new claim 24, which claim is also believed to be allowable.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because it merely places the claims into condition for allowance, and no new issues are raised.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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